submitted that there is no hope of reduction of the evil if the so-called "legitimate consumer" is looked upon with compassion. In this country nobody can be characterised as a legitimate consumer. Drinking has been condemned by all religions alike. It is also necessary to have the toddy and liquor shops far away from the crowded places and to gradually reduce their number.

The members are thankful to Government for having reduced the number of shops, but further reduction was possible, as there were too many facilities for drink.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

SUBJECT No. 190.

Bagani trees on hiduvali lands.

Mr. Ranganna, Manjarabad taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The question of permitting landholders in the malnad to tap Bagani trees on their lands for the use of their coolies may be decided early.

Reply of Government.—Cannot be granted as it is a Government monopoly.

SUBJECT No. 191.

Offences under the Excise Regulation.

Mr. D. Srikanta Rao, Devanhalli taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The present system of holding contractors responsible for offences committed by toddy and arrack vendors involves much trouble to the contractors, who are put to great inconvenience on account of the vendors not being brought to book. The consequence is that vendors realizing their safety continue in their dishonest pursuits. It is therefore requested that the existing rule in the matter may be modified and punishment meted out to the offender.

Reply of Government.—Action is being taken to suitably amend the provision in the Regulation.

SUBJECT No. 192.

A contractor's liability for the tree tax on toddy trees.

Messrs. B. Alasingrachar and Payanna, Hassan Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—According to existing rules, the toddy contractor is to pay tree tax in respect of trees on private lands marked out for tapping. In case the contractor becomes a defaulter, the owner of toddy trees marked for tapping will be held liable for the arrears, and will be proceeded against. As this is a very hard rule, it may be modified so that the owner may not be held responsible for the default of the contractor.

Reply of Government.—Will be enquired into.

SUBJECT No. 193.

Interest on excise khists.

Mr. M. Nanjundiah, North Mysore Native Planters' Association, Chikmagalur.

Summary of discussion.—The contract amount of the excise revenue is payable in twelve equal monthly instalments. To ensure punctuality in payment, the contractors are required to deposit an amount equal to two months' khists and to execute a surety bond for the payment of the instalments in time. Even with so many safeguards for the regular payment of Government dues, the contractors are charged with interest, if any instalment is not paid before the 20th of a month. This is hard. Interest may not be levied on instalments falling into arrears.

Reply of Government.—Will be enquired into.

SUBJECT No. 194.

Disposal of toddy trees in inam villages.

Mr. K. Krishnamurti Rao, Magadi taluk.

Summary of discussion.—In many villages there were in times past only a few toddy trees, but these have now increased in number. As the inamdars have only the right to fell the trees and are not allowed to tap them, they have to depend upon the contractors for their revenue who generally dictate their own terms. In some places the rent for a tree ranges from two annas to a rupee. In some other parts there is no demand for the inamdar's trees for years together. Government, on the other hand, have been enhancing the tree tax gradually and the result of it is loss to inamdars. It is requested at least to kindly take charge of all the trees in the inam villages and to guarantee to pay the inamdars every alternate year, not less than eight annas per tree, subject, of course, to the enhancement of the rate under special circumstances. If this is not possible, the inamdars may at least be permitted to have their own shops as promised last year.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

SUBJECT No. 195.

Inamdars' rights to toddy revenue.

(*a*) Messrs. K. Krishnamurti Rao, Magadi taluk, and G. Srinivasamurti, Hassan taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) The question of inamdars' rights to toddy revenue is under consideration for a long time. If it had been known that such rules as the present ones would be brought into force, inamdars would have clearly got the necessary entries made in their title deeds. It is now seen that the inamdars are being denied the right under the rules framed from time to time to suit the occasions. If the tree tax system had been brought into force after the settlement of the question of inamdars' right to toddy revenue, they would have been shown some consideration. Unwillingness to pay the inamdars the large sums now with the Government has occasioned the introduction of different rules under the regime of different officers. It is therefore prayed that early relief may be given to inamdars.

(*b*) Mr. V. Raghavachar, Mysore taluk.

(*b*) It is learnt that the Government are contemplating to modify the existing rules regarding the toddy revenue of inam villages. Before any change is introduced, pray that the inamdars' views on *takarars* may be first heard.

Mr. B. K. Garudachar represented that the tree tax collected in the villages were not paid yet to the inamdars, even where the rights had been settled.

Mr. Karnik Nallappa of Tumkur represented that the inamdars should have a right to tree-tax on Government trees also. He said this with reference to recent orders withholding the tree-tax on such trees.

Mr. Anniah Pandit represented that the inamdars should be permitted to make jaggory from toddy drawn from their trees.